



Report Sheds New Light on Undervalued Part of Our Forests

Climate Action Reserve releases new Forest Guild report on carbon in lying dead wood

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Santa Fe, NM—Dead wood is a critical and undervalued part of our forests. Dead wood lying on the forest floor provides habitat for wildlife, reduces erosion, stores water, facilitates growth of plants, recycles nutrients, and sequesters carbon. It is the carbon storage in dead wood that was the focus of a new Forest Guild report commissioned by the Climate Action Reserve.

Founded in 2001, the Reserve ensures integrity, transparency, and financial value in the North American carbon market. In order to explore possible improvements to their forest carbon offset standards, the Reserve contracted with the Forest Guild to write this comprehensive report on carbon management and accounting for lying dead wood (LDW). The report highlights the differences in carbon storage in major forest types of the U.S. and discusses the influence that growth cycles, external disturbances, and forest management practices have on LDW. LDW generally accounts for between 2 and 5 percent of carbon stored in forests or about 2.4 billion tons of carbon in the U.S., but disturbances such as hurricanes or fire can significantly increase the amount of LDW in a particular location.

Accounting for carbon in LDW requires careful measurement; but measuring LDW is more challenging than taking an inventory of live trees, because breakage and decay make LDW even more irregular and heterogeneous than living trees. The new report provides an in-depth discussion of various sampling methods. The extensive list of references for both sampling methods and LDW characteristics by forest type provides the most comprehensive resource to date for planning an LDW inventory.

The report can be downloaded from the [Climate Action Reserve](http://www.climateactionreserve.org) or Forest Guild's website: www.forestguild.org/publications/research/2010/Lying_Dead_Wood_Evans_Ducey_2010.pdf

The **Forest Guild** is a national organization of more than 800 foresters, natural resource professionals, and supporters who practice and promote ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them.

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